McHenry Library – Entering a New Era – Talk and Exhibit
By Laura McClanathan, Reference Librarian

Ten years in the planning, the McHenry Library Expansion and Renovation Project will provide the UCSC campus with an outstanding, architecturally designed building in a setting of terraced reading gardens, redwoods, and cherry trees. The renovation of the existing library building will bring about many changes and mark the end of one era and the beginning of another.

To mark this special historical moment McHenry Library is inviting you to a talk and an exhibition.

A panel of distinguished speakers will share their remembrances and reflections from McHenry Library’s earliest days in the 1960’s to its coming transformation into a state of the art technological research facility. They will share their personal experiences and thoughts as long time library users about the architecture, spirit, and evolution of McHenry Library as the building transitions to meet the needs of research in the 21st century.

Transitions: Reflections on 41 years of McHenry Library
November 6, 2007
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
McHenry Library, 3rd floor bridge
Judy Yung, Professor Emerita, American Studies
John Dizikes, Professor Emeritus, American Studies
Virginia Jansen, Professor Emerita, History of Art and Visual Culture
Stan Stevens, Librarian, UCSC Map Collection

This presentation is being held in conjunction with the McHenry Library exhibit “One Last Look: A Photographic History of McHenry Library”. The exhibit includes historical photographs by Ansel Adams and others as well as ephemera of McHenry Library from Special Collections. It will be installed in mid-October and will remain until spring break. This will be the last exhibit and last lecture held in McHenry Library before the move into the new wing.

Robert A. Heinlein Archive Accessible Online
UCSC Library commemorates his 100th Birthday with a Very Special Gift
By Gretchen Dempewolf, Special Collections

2007 was an especially exciting year for fans of the renowned science-fiction author Robert A. Heinlein. Through tremendous efforts by UC Santa Cruz Archives and Special Collections staff, and with the collaborative cooperation of the Heinlein Prize Trust, readers can now fully access the contents of the archive online. This innovative digitization project will improve access to a rich and diverse archival collection; reduce physical strain on the original materials; and inspire new scholarship about one of America’s most prolific authors.

Robert Anson Heinlein was born July 7, 1907, in Butler, Missouri and died May 8, 1988, in Carmel, California. He married his third wife, Virginia Doris Gerstenfeld, in 1948 and stayed with her until his death in 1988. After a brief Naval career, Heinlein embarked on a writing career that lasted almost fifty years. Heinlein’s works include short stories, scientific articles, and of course, over 30 full-length novels on numerous aspects of science-fiction and space exploration. After Robert’s death, Virginia Heinlein published a collection of his letters called Grumbles From the Grave and coordinated the publication of one of Heinlein’s first works, We The Living. Along with Mark Twain, Robert A. Heinlein is one of the few American authors whose entire body of work is still in print.

In 2005, with generous financial support from the Heinlein Prize Trust, Special Collections hired archivist Debra Roussopoulos to process the Robert A. and Virginia G. Heinlein papers. This collection contains over 200 boxes of manuscripts, correspondence, photographs and artifacts. Working part-time, Roussopoulos finished processing Heinlein’s manuscripts in June of 2007. The manuscripts are the first major series in this immense collection; others, such as photographs, realia and correspondence, will quickly follow. Archival staff members Maureen Carey and Mathew Simpson assisted Roussopoulos with the creation of a virtual exhibit on Heinlein and with the creation and encoding of a comprehensive finding guide to the collection. To view both the exhibit and the finding aid, visit the OAC’s website at: http://library.ucsc.edu/oac/home.html.

To celebrate the anniversary of Heinlein’s 100th birthday on July 7th, several organizations hosted special events and exhibits. The Heinlein...
23 Things We Did Last Summer  

By Sue Perry, Digital Initiatives Librarian

Have you ever used a wiki? How about edited one? Do you know about folksonomies or social bookmarking? These are just a few emerging technologies that make up the “Web 2.0” and they’ll change the way libraries deliver our electronic services in the next several years. This second generation of the Web facilitates collaboration and sharing between users. It invites users to participate in the creation of Web content, rather than just consuming it. “Library 2.0” is a model where libraries invite participation from patrons in the delivery of our services.

In order to familiarize ourselves with the technologies of Web 2.0, over half of the library staff participated in a summer long program called “Learning About Library 2.0 in 15 Minutes a Day” that taught us all to start a blog, edit a wiki, subscribe to an RSS feed, make a podcast, chat online, and more. A team of library staff modified a program of exercises originally designed by Helene Blowers, Technology Director of Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County. The program is available through a Creative Commons license, which means the content is available for borrowing and modifying with the author’s permission (which is a very Web 2.0 concept, by the way.) There are 23 exercises in the program and each exercise encouraged library staff to learn a new skill through exploration and play. We searched blog sites, posted online photos, listened to audio ebooks, and made our own search engines among other things.

Each participant kept track of their progress with a blog, and we shared our experiences by commenting on each other’s blogs. Some of the “things” were the subjects of hot debate, such as Second Life and social networks. The library rewarded each staff member who completed the program with a gift certificate to the BayTree bookstore. Many participants commented that they would have done it without the gift certificate. Here are a few quotes from the staff:

“I found this program extremely illuminating and am grateful that I am now better informed about these possibilities than my teen-age sons or my techie husband - first time ever!”

“I learned a lot of great stuff and the way I work has changed, I feel more connected in some ways.”

Check out the exercises and the participant blogs at http://ucsclearning2.blogspot.com/. Feel free to try out a few of the “things” and let us know what you think at learning2team@library.ucsc.edu.

---

Getting all Neat and Tidy for the Big Move  

By Karen Mokrzycki, Preservation and Collection Planning

Who likes to collect dust? Thanks to the efforts of roughly 10 student cleaning teams and funding support from the Library Administration, the McHenry Library collections received a much welcomed cleaning this summer. Sue Stoebner and Margie Tuzzi from the Preservation Unit hired, trained, and directed the efforts of 20 willing and energetic students who worked in teams of two, for 4 hours a day, every day, the entire summer. One by one, they removed all 800,000 volumes from the shelves, cleaned them with HEPA vacuums, and returned them to their neat and tidy homes – even though our student workers did not really like to ‘collect’ dust either.

The impetus for the cleaning project was to remove dust and dirt from the volumes before moving them into the McHenry Addition, which will be an environmentally controlled system with regulated temperature and relative humidity. Stable environmental conditions are a highly effective preservation strategy to extend the service life of paper, audio-visual, and photographic collections by protecting them from changes in heat, humidity, and lighting levels.

Please join us in a few rounds of applause for the McHenry Clean Team!